



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE OHIO 45433

4 SEP 1981

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

SUBJECT Marijuana Information Paper

TO FTD/Directors FTD/DT FTD/SP Det 3/CC Det 4/CC

The attached fact sheet from the Air Force Surgeon General provides a wealth of information dispelling many of the myths concerning marijuana usage and highlighting the scope of the real dangers involved. It behooves everyone to become totally familiar with the facts of this national problem. Please give this information the widest dissemination.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David S. Watrous".

DAVID S. WATROUS, Colonel, USAF
Commander

1 Atch
Ltr fm AFSC/SG dtd 26 Aug 81,
"Marijuana Information Paper,"
w/1 Atch

Cy to: FTD LOs



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, DC 20334

REPLY TO: SG
ATTN OF:

26 August 1981

SUBJECT: Marijuana Information Paper

TO: AD/CC/SG
AEDC/CC/SG
AFCMD/CC
AFFTC/CC/SG
AMD/CC
ASD/CC
BMO/CC

ESD/CC/SG
ESMC/CC/SG
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RADC/CC
SAMTO/CC
SD/CC/SG
WSMC/CC

The attached fact sheet from the Air Force Surgeon General on the widespread use of marijuana in this nation is provided for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fredric F. Doppel".

FREDRIC F. DOPPEL
Brigadier General, USAF, MC
Command Surgeon

1 Atch
Fact Sheet

Cy to: Deputy Chiefs of Staff and
Chiefs of Special Staff Offices

INFORMATION PAPER

- STATISTICS

- 68% of the nation's young adults (18-25 high risk age group) had tried marijuana in 1979
 - Compares with 4% in 1962
- 33% have experimented with cocaine, heroin or other hallucinogens (1979)
 - Compares with 3% in 1962
- From 1972-1979, experience with marijuana and cocaine doubled in 12-17 year olds and in over 25 year old
- Of total users
 - 15 million (2/3) use 5 times a month
 - Of today's high school seniors more than 10% are daily marijuana users (20 or more times per 30 days), consuming an average of 3½ marijuana joints per day - number peaked in 1978
 - Generally consider all drug use harmful except marijuana
 - Daily use rate double among males as among females
 - Double rate among non-college bound as among college bound
 - Black use, one-half of white
 - Not a disease of the minority
 - 25% have used by 9th grade
 - Daily use evenly spread socioeconomically (in terms of parent education)
 - High use correlates positively with poor work, low political values, low religious values, low self-esteem
- Under 25 years of age, marijuana smoking at least as common as tobacco
- Positive correlation with increased use of alcohol, tobacco and other illicit drugs

*DEFINITIONS

Marijuana/Cannabis - whole plant material

Approved For Release 2005/12/23 : CIA-RDP83M00171R001500010018-2
Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - principal psychoactive ingredient (cannabinoid) in marijuana

- Daily use after high school
 - Approved For Release 2005/12/23 : CIA-RDP83M00171R001500010018-2
 - Overall, 2.6% increased daily use
 - Living away from home, increased use (doubled)
 - Single use twice that of married
 - Daily use higher in families without children, lower in families with children
 - Full time college - lowest rate daily use - 8%
 - Part-time college - 19%
 - Unemployed - 14%
 - Employed - 13%
 - Military - 12% (slight decrease)
 - Use of other illicit drugs markedly increased in daily "pot" users, 5-7 times
 - 51% continue as daily users 4 years after high school (class '75)
 - However, 34% current but not daily users (class '75)
- Junior high school statistics
 - 8th grade - 48% tried marijuana, 40% smoke cigarettes, 50% use alcohol

- PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS - Uniform in Pattern

- Marijuana use fosters alteration toward family and society in general
- Brain damage syndrome, marked by distortion of perception and reality
- Regular use can cause persistent brain damage
 - Requires only 2 joints per week for 3 months
 - Consistent with demonstrated brain wave changes
 - Effects not limited to period of intoxication
 - Mental confusion, inability to concentrate, diminished attention span, loss of will power, impaired concept formation, impairs short-term memory
 - Inhibits comprehension, judgment, learning
 - Paranoia - suspicious
 - Regression - total withdrawal
 - Loss of motivation - closely related to reduction in intellectual performance

- EFFECTS ON SKILLS AND PERFORMANCE - Dose Dependent

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- Effect correlates strongly with intelligence level of user
- Driving skills deteriorate
- No safer than alcohol - reinforced by alcohol (additive effect)
- Distortion visual/auditory perception
- Hazardous effects also associated with flying

- PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- Lungs and respiratory system
 - Chronic cannabis (THC) smoking produces sinusitis, bronchitis, emphysema and other respiratory difficulties in a year or less - equivalent to 10-20 years cigarette smoking
 - THC and tobacco smoke - greater damage than tobacco smoke alone
 - Lung cancer potential equal to tobacco
- Reproductive effects
 - THC in female
 - Concentrates in ovaries
 - Irregular menstrual cycles
 - Toxic to young fetus or unborn child
 - THC in male
 - Enlargement and tenderness of the breasts
 - Impotence
 - Testosterone levels reduced by 44%
 - Chronic use - affects sperm - decreases count, increases abnormalities, affects mobility and physical characteristics

- PHARMACOLOGY

- Quick effect - respiratory route
 - 14 seconds from puff to brain
 - 28 seconds intravenous
 - 10-20 minutes orally
 - Blood level present at least 72 hours
 - 3 joints per week maintains chronic blood level
- Approved For Release 2005/12/23 : CIA-RDP83M00171R001500010018-2
- Levels variable according to method of intake and form and potency of material

- Potency varies - as much as 10 fold
 - Early 1960s - 0.2% pure THC
 - 1970s - 1% pure THC
 - 1980s - 3-4% pure THC
- Increased potency - increased effects
 - Data of 1960s not comparable to data of today
- Addiction potential
 - Likelihood current use to daily use
 - Alcohol - 9% who drink, drink daily
 - Tobacco - 58% who smoke, smoke daily
 - Marijuana - 29% who smoke, smoke daily
 - Mild withdrawal symptoms on abstinence
 - Irritability
 - Insomnia
 - Loss of appetite
 - Profound psychological dependence
 - Not just recreational drug
 - To stop requires professional help

- AIR FORCE CONSIDERATIONS

- All of the above applicable to Air Force
 - First term airmen
 - Recruits
 - Most directly from high school
 - Air Force data similar in under 25 years of age
- Conditions fostering use
 - Youth
 - Away from home
 - Most unmarried
 - Most males